

## U.S. Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas

## Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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## MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR CONSPIRACY TO TRANSPORT ALIENS

United States Attorney **Johnny Sutton** announced today that Guillermo Parra-Luna, 43, citizen of Mexico and resident alien of the United States, was sentenced to 168 months in federal prison for conspiring to transport aliens within the Western District of Texas. Co-defendants Santos Omar Perez, 24, citizen of Honduras, and Juan Antonio Murillo-Reza, 21, of Zacatecas, Mexico, each were sentenced to 120 months in federal prison. Juan Morales-Dolores, 27, of Pueblo, Mexico, was sentenced to 78 months in federal prison.

The charges arose from the discovery of 32 undocumented aliens in a sweltering mobile home in Campbellton, Texas, on August 20, 2002. The illegal immigrants, who were from Honduras and Mexico, crossed into the United States near Piedras Negras, Mexico, and were guided by "coyotes" on foot through Maverick and Zavala Counties to a pick-up point west of La Pryor, Texas. One of the Honduran immigrants, Victor Manuel Romero-Lopez, became ill during the journey. He was left behind in the brush by the smugglers and died as a result of heat stroke. The smugglers transported the surviving illegal immigrants to the Parra property in Campbellton. Members of the organization detained the illegal immigrants at the mobile home until friends and family members sent money by wire transfer to secure the release of their loved ones. Wire transfer records indicate that between December 1, 1999 and July 19, 2002, Guillermo Parra and his wife Maria Magdelena Parra-Luna signed cash receipts for over \$700,000; funds believed to represent smuggling fees. Maria Magdelena Parra-Luna, who was named in the indictment, remains a fugitive.

On June 13, 2003, Guillermo Parra-Luna pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to transport aliens and two substantive counts of transporting aliens. He also agreed to the forfeiture of real property in Atascosa County used in the crimes. On June 19, 2003, Juan Antonio Murillo-Reza also pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to transport aliens and one substantive count of transporting aliens. Juan Morales-Dolores pled guilty to conspiracy to transport aliens on June 19, 2003. On February 24, 2003, Santos Omar-Perez pled guilty to conspiracy to transport aliens.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly Immigration and Naturalization Service), the Atascosa Sheriff's Department, Zavala County Sheriff's Department and the United States Border Patrol. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Judith Patton.